

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 9 May 2016

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Shipman, David William	i	Guards Cemetery, W C C	link
Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC)	i	Pas de Calais, France	i
Private #14849	i	Plot 4 Row H Grave 3	i
Death 25 May 1915	link	Exhumation 8-12-1919	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	n/a	Graves Registration Report	8
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	9
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3(a,b)	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	4	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	5	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	6	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List	7	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	10

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 4 Row H Grave 3 lists an unknown British Soldier of the Strathcona's Horse (LSH). This refers to the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, operating as a dismounted unit.

A review of all the information related to the LSH at Festubert in May 1915 clearly shows that the remains found at map coordinates **36.S.27.c.8.2** are those of Private David William Theodore Shipman #14849.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 4 Row H Grave 3 at the Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner Cuinchy are those of Private David Shipman #14849 of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Circumstance of Death file (COD) for Private (*dismounted Trooper*) Shipman states that he was killed in action on 25 May 1915 while serving with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Attachment #1). The file provides considerable detail on the location of the remains as it states:

"Killed instantly by an enemy shell at Festubert about 12:30 p.m. on May 25th, 1915. He was buried by his comrades close to trench "K.1" which is about 1 mile due east of the village of Festubert, and is a prolongation of what is known as Willow Road."

2. The record of his death is confirmed in the E-13 War Graves Register, which also states that a cross was erected and so marked by the O.C. "*Officer Commanding*" LSH (Attachment #2). As the remains of Private Shipman were not identified at the time of exhumation, his name was inscribed on the Vimy Memorial.
3. The War Diary of the Lord Strathcona's Horse for May 25, 1915 confirms that the unit was in action at that location near Festubert, France (Attachment #3a). The diary also states that on 24 May 1915 A & B squadrons moved into advanced trenches at K.5.

Further clarification of the exact location of the LSH is provided in the war diary of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Division, as they were in a joint action with the LSH at Festubert and at that time (Attachment #3b). That document tells us the line that was held by the 2nd Brigade and *Seely's Detachment*, which included the Lord Strathcona's Horse. The diary also records the men in the communications trenches leading to K.5.

4. The general area of the action at Festubert is shown in Map 2 of the Official History of the Canadian Army in the Great War (Nicholson). The map clearly shows the location K.5 and the area held by the 2nd Infantry Brigade. The area marked for the British 47th (London) Division refers to *Seeley's Detachment* with which the Lord Strathcona's Horse was participating (Attachment #4). To the northeast of K.5 are markers for M.10 and the Canadian Orchard.
5. A detailed trench map of the area was extracted from Duguid's History of the Canadian Forces, Department of National Defence (1915). Map 11 of the Festubert area fortunately details all the key reference locations (Attachment #5). We have marked this map to show where the LSH was at the time relative to the location of the remains. The trench map shows that the remains at **36.S.27.c.8.2** is 1 mile due east of Festubert as described for the burial.

A more general trench map of the area from the collection of the Imperial War Museum, without the key reference marks, shows where the remains of Privates Clarke and Howe would have been located at Rue Cailloux, running through the top of Sector 36.S.26.b westward through to 36.S.25, where the road turns south. Those areas are 1,000 yards or more away from where the remains of Private Shipman were buried.

6. The identification of the remains as belonging to Private Shipley becomes clear after an examination of the candidates from the LSH that were killed in action at Festubert on 25 May 1915, as provided in the CWGC database (Attachment #6). We have also shown here a summary table from the CWGC database to which we have added the information taken from the circumstance of death records for each private. From this information we know that only Private Shipman was in the location where the remains were found and that he is the only candidate that is recorded as having a cross placed on his grave. The distance measurement of 1 mile also agrees with his record. The remains of Cook, Evans, Morgan and McConaghy were not marked and there is no record of burial.
7. The remains of Clarke and Howe were identified relative to a location, which is 1,000 yards or more away from the remains belonging to Private Shipman, as depicted in their E-13 War Graves Register files (Attachment #7). Additionally, their records have no mention that a cross was placed on the grave, as was clearly recorded in the case of Private Shipman.
8. The Graves Registration Report (GRRF) states that the remains in 4.H.3 are those of an UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER, Strathcona's Horse (Attachment #8). We know that to be in fact an UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER of the Lord Strathcona's. The LSH was serving as a "dismounted cavalry unit" of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the time of the action near Festubert in the later days of May 1915. The Official History of the CEF (Nicholson) reports as follows:

"Before the inconclusive battle ended there was one more Canadian attempt to push the Germans back. The task of cooperating with the 47th Division's attack on the evening of 25 May was given to "Seely's Detachment", which had relieved the 2nd Brigade on the 24th. This dismounted detachment consisted of the headquarters and units of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade. To meet the 1st Division's shortage of infantry after Ypres its personnel had volunteered for service in France and had crossed the Channel on 4 May, approximately 1500 strong, leaving their horses with Yeomanry units in England. Except for 24 hours' instruction given to one squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Brig.-Gen. Seely's nine squadrons of cavalrymen entered the front line with no experience in trench warfare. They were opposed by the newly arrived 91st Reserve Regiment of the 2nd Guard Reserve Division.

The Canadian contribution began at nine o'clock with a bombing group from Lord Strathcona's Horse working northward from K.5. They carried 200 gas bombs - the first authorized use of gas by the B.E.F. - and they were assisted by bayonet parties from their own regiment. Reports of success coming back soon after midnight indicated that the South Breastwork had been cleared from K.5 to L.8, a point 300 yards to the north-east."

9. The Concentration of Graves (Exhumation and Burials) Burial Return (COG-BR) provides explicit details as to the remains that were located at the trench map coordinates of **36.S.27.c.8.2** (Attachment #9). Of importance on this document is the reference to the soldier being killed in action on 25 May 1915, a record that was not carried forward to the GRRF referenced in the preceding section. The COG-BR further states that the grave was marked with a cross. This evidence is crucial to the examination of this case as it clearly shows that we are looking only for a member of the LSH that was in a marked grave at the location given in the report, killed in action on that date. Only Private Shipman meets the criteria.

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #10).

The information provides conclusive evidence that the only candidate that meets the criteria for the remains recovered at **36.S.c.2.8** is Private David William Theodore Shipman #14849 of the Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians). He was the only of the 7 candidates killed in action on 25 May 1915 at Festubert and recorded to be buried in the location 1 mile due east of Festubert where the remains were recovered in a grave marked with a cross bearing the details.

1. NO. 14849	2. RANK OR RATING Trooper	3. SURNAMES SHIPMAN	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES David William Theodore
5. UNIT OR SHIP Lord Strathcona Horse	6. DATE OF CASUALTY 25-5-15	7. H.Q. FILE NO. 643-S-509	8. RELIGION Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY Killed in Action - Killed instantly by an enemy shell at FESRUPT about 12.30 p.m. on May 25th, 1915. He was buried by his comrades close to trench "K.I." which is about 1 mile due East of the village of FESRUPT, and is a prolongation of what is known as "WILLOW ROAD".		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
NOTE: Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION Grave..... Plot..... Row.....	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

ATTACHMENT #2

E-102
42247

NUMBER 14849 RANK *Tpr* ~~Pvt~~ NAME SHIPMAN, David W^r Theodore *And on office*

UNIT L.S.H. NEXT-OF-KIN:- Mrs. R. Shipman, 48450

FILE NO. R.L. 25. 8. 97 1163, Selkirk Avenue,
WINNIPEG, Manitoba.

D.G.R. & E. Ref.

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
25. 5. '15	Killed in action by shell.	11

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
X	Close to trench (K1). Trench K1 <i>about</i> 1 mile due east of the Village of Festubert & is a prolongation of Willow Road.	Cross erected (Ab L.S.H.)

**VIMY
MEMORIAL**

ATTACHMENT #3(a)

WAR DIARY
OF
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Breach heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
10.45pm May 19 th 1915 LONG CORNET	Removed to "hills" at LONG CORNET	Damp & muggy.
9 am. May 20 th 1915 LONG CORNET	Route marches, musketry etc under Squadron arrangements. 2 men returned from hospital	Fine
9 a.m. May 21 st 1915 LONG CORNET	Routing of musketry & other exercises under Squadron arrangements. One man returned from hospital	Damp in morning Fine in afternoon
10.30 pm. May 22 nd 1915 FESTUBERT	Regt left for 1st line trenches, less 5 officers left behind. A "S" Coy (1 troop) & 2 troops of "C" Sqn occupied front line, 2 troops of "B" Sqn under Major TURNER in advanced trench. "B" Sqn & H.Q. in reserve trenches. 2 companies in taking over trenches at 1 during night	Fair. Very heavy thunder & rain at night.
9 am. May 23 rd 1915 FESTUBERT	Heavy bombardment & several casualties	Fine & warm.
2.30 am. May 24 th 1915 FESTUBERT	M.G. section & 2 troops "C" Sqn. Supported attack on K5 road made by 5th & 10th Can. Battalions & LONDON (Post Office) RIFLES Attack of success but severe bombardment resulted in 3 casualties in regiment	Fine
10 am. May 24 th 1915 FESTUBERT	"A" & "B" Sqn moved up into advanced trenches at K5. "C" Sqn went into communication trench. Lt Col A.D. CAMERON, JR. SPARKES & D.J. MACDONALD wounded, many other casualties	Fine
9 am. May 25 th 1915 FESTUBERT	Situation unchanged	Fine
11 pm. May 25 th 1915 FESTUBERT	"A" & "B" Sqn retired to reserve trenches. "C" Sqn & M.G. Sect & Reg. Hdqrs. LONDON RIFLES killed. Major WICKETH & Capt CRITCHLEY wounded.	Fine
10 am. May 26 th 1915 FESTUBERT	"C" Sqn withdrew to hills at LONG CORNET	Fine
10.30 pm. May 27 th 1915 FESTUBERT	Remainder of Regt returned to hills - Total casualties: 1 officer, 2 NCOs, 1 signaller killed; 5 officers, 17 NCOs & 66 men wounded, 18 men missing	Fine

(P.229) W4141-453. 400,000. 9/14. H.A.L. Ltd. Form C. 2118/10.

ATTACHMENT #3(b)

From the war diary of the 2nd Infantry Brigade:

121/5883. II

ORDERS FOR RELIEF.

24th MAY 1915.

2nd CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

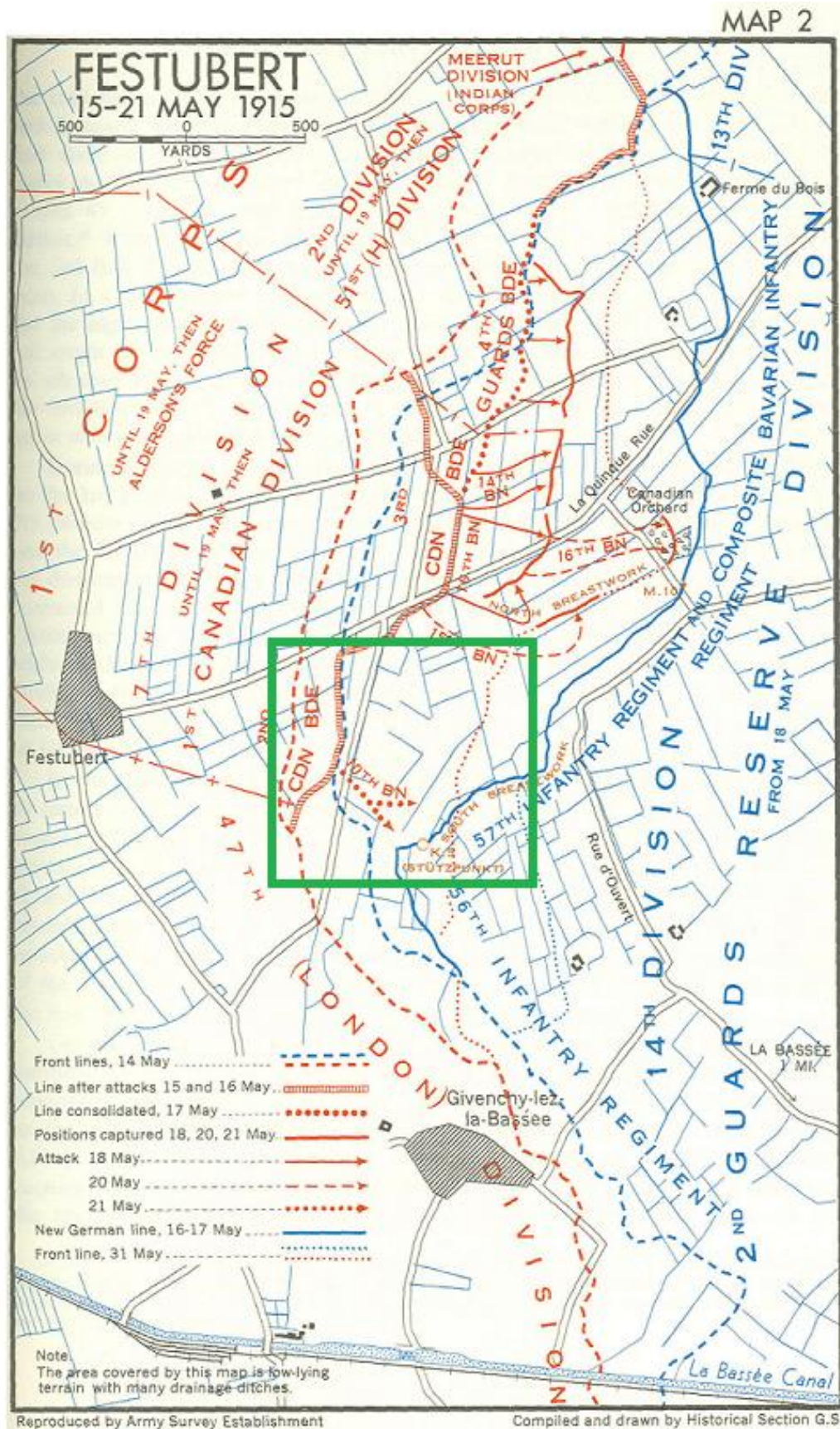
I. Line to be consolidated is as follows.

K.I.-K2. K4.-B.-K5. to a point about 200 yards N.E. along trench K.5. towards L.8.

2. The line held by the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade and SEELY'S DET. will be M.3.-L.I.-L.2.-K.I.-K2.-K4.-B.-K.5. to point 200 yards N.E of K.5.

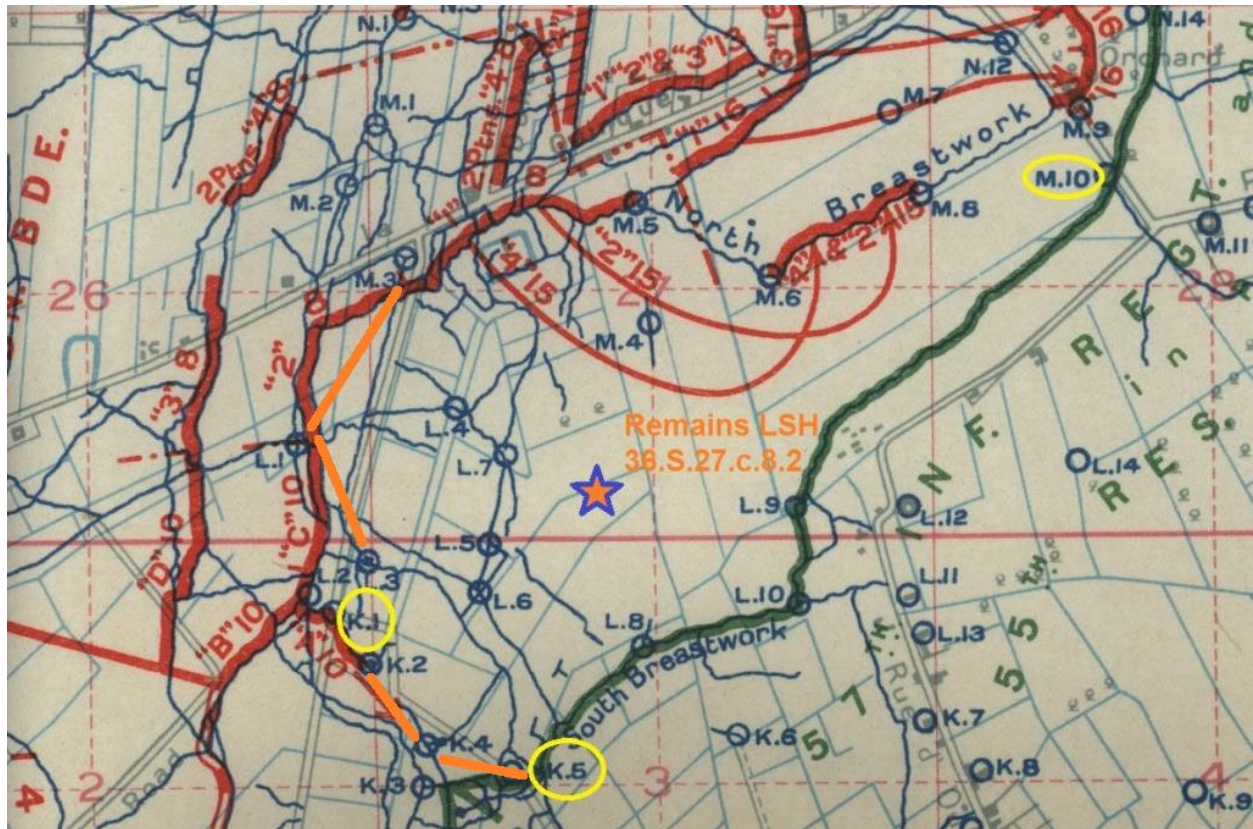
At 9.p.m. the relief of the 5th and 7th Battalions by the I.S.H and I.E.H. Seely's Det. was commenced and was practically completed by midnight, although the platoon under Lieut Thomas in their communicating trench leading to K.5. was not relieved until 2.15 a.m. 25.5.15.

Private David Shipman #14849

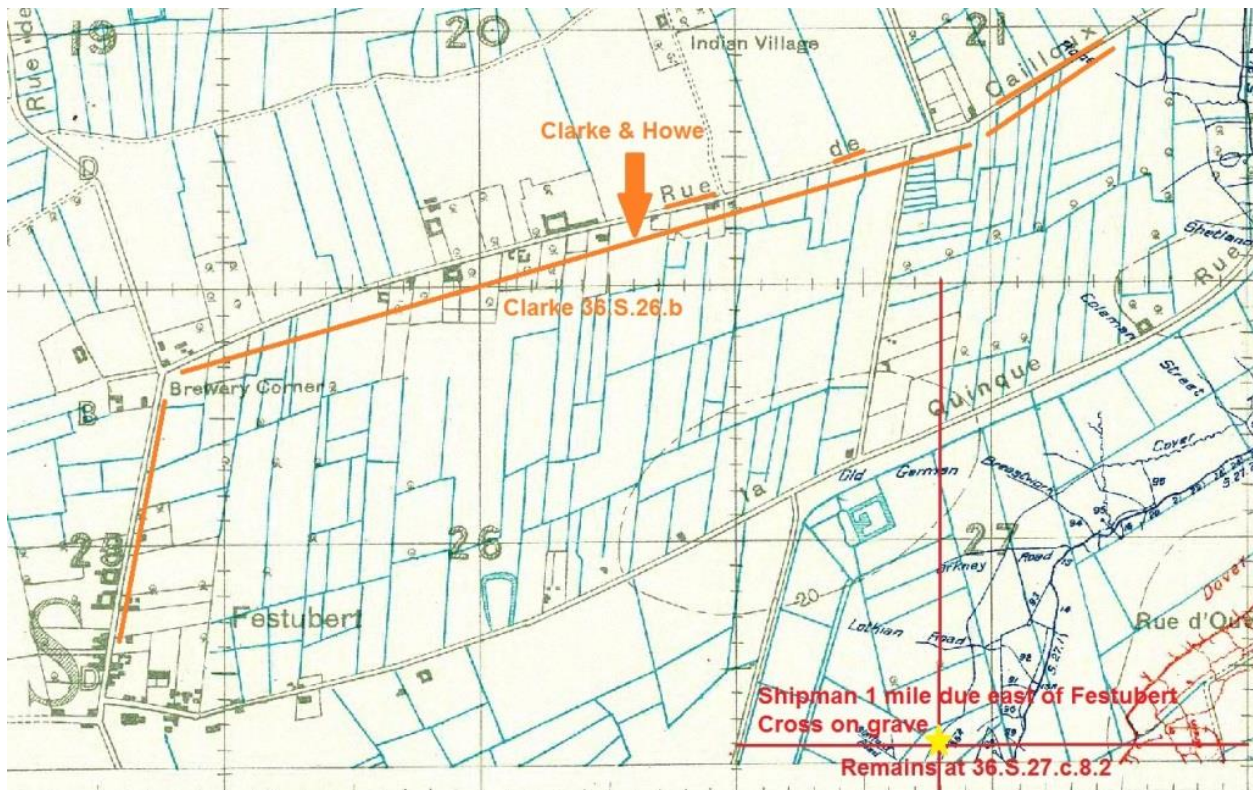


ATTACHMENT #5

Extract of Duguid Map 11 showing reference points mentioned in War Diary:



Extract of IWM period trench map showing location of remains:



ATTACHMENT #6

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	surname	forename	death	rank	#	details
2	CLARKE	THOMAS	25-05-15	Private	'2517'	Near Rue Cailloux Top of Barton Road, Festubert 36.S.26.b - at British Trench Junction
3	COOK	ALBERT	25-05-15	Private	'15490'	Festubert - grave no known as being relieved under heavy shell fire, may be 24-5-1915 on WGR
4	EVANS	AMBROSE MARSHALL	25-05-15	Private	'2863'	On or since 25-5-1915, no additional details - NRB
5	HOWE	WALTER	25-05-15	Private	'2426'	Near Rue Cailloux, which map shows is on far west of S25 (so S25.b or d) - see also Clarke above
6	MORGAN	HENRY ARCHIBALD	25-05-15	Private	'15153'	Trenches NE of Festubert - NRB
7	McCONAGHY	ARTHUR FRANCIS	25-05-15	Private	'14514'	Details on wounding and died before reaching aid - NRB
8	SHIPMAN	DAVID WILLIAM THEODORE	25-05-15	Private	'14849'	Shell hit at 12:30 pm and buried close to "K.1", 1 mile due east at Willow Road - cross erected!

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
CLARKE, THOMAS	Private	2517	25/05/1915		Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
COOK, ALBERT	Private	15490	25/05/1915		Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, AMBROSE MARSHALL	Private	2863	25/05/1915	31	Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
HOWE, WALTER	Private	2426	25/05/1915		Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
McCONAGHY, ARTHUR FRANCIS	Private	14514	25/05/1915		Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
MORGAN, HENRY ARCHIBALD	Private	15153	25/05/1915	20	Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
SHIPMAN, DAVID WILLIAM THEODORE	Private	14849	25/05/1915	20	Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	

ATTACHMENT #7

Private Thomas Clarke #2517

649-8-580. 8647

NUMBER 2517 RANK *Tpr.* *Pte.* NAME CLARKE Thomas.

UNIT L.S.H. NEXT-OF-KIN Mrs. A. Manson,

FILE NO. R.L. 25-6-392 Kamloops, B.C.

D.G.R. & E. Ref.

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
25. 5. 15.	Killed in action.	11.

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
	Destabert. N.W. of Barton Rd. c British Trench junction.	

Burial Report by G.R.O.:

Rue Caillaux (Top of Barton Road) Arch. 649-8-580.

~~Grave cancelled~~ see file. → 25 C 392

Pl. 56. S. 26. A.

Grave not registered as at 20-10-21. Arch. 649-8-580.

VIMY MEMORIAL

Private Walter Howe #2426

649-11762 2242

NUMBER 2426 RANK *Tpr.* *Pte.* NAME HOWE, Walter.

UNIT L.S.H. NEXT-OF-KIN Walter Howe (Father)

FILE NO. B.L. 428, Old London Road,

D.G.R. & E. Ref. Hastings, England.

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
25. 5. 15	Killed in action	11

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
	near Rue Caillaux.	

VIMY MEMORIAL

ATTACHMENT #8

A.R.R. 27.10.20. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

No. 1. DISTRICT. REPORT No. 17 SCHEDULE No. 74 c.

CUINCHY

PLACE OF BURIAL GUARDS CEMETERY (WINDY CORNER)

Map Reference Sh.44a.A.8.c.4.5.

The following are buried here:— Information

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
PLOT 4. ROW "H"						
1/7 Black Watch.	359	DALRYMPLE	CSM.D.G.	17.6.15.	ALL	Gr.1.
2/8 Gurkha Rifles.		MAXWELL	LT.G.W.	23.11.14.		2.
Strathcona's Horse.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				3.
12/Royal Scots.	18411	CAIRNS	PTE.J.	4.8.15.		4.
2/Welsh Regt.	15175	BRYANT	PTE.E.J.	10.3.15.		5.
7/Canadians.	<u>21946</u> 1746	Mc.GILL	PTE.A.	22.5.15.	<u>5/4547.</u>	6.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				7.
2/ Bedford Regt.	14142	SELL	PTE.W.P.	18.5.15.	CROSSES	8.
-do-	9760	BARTLETT	CPL.W.	17.5.15.		9.
-do-	8559	RICHARDSON	L/CPL.L.	18.5.15.		10.
-do-	13843	HERRING	PTE.A.			11.
-do-	<u>415988</u>	JEFFREY	PTE.W.	18.5.15.		12.
-do-		MOCKRIDGE	PTE.H.			13.
-do-	5723	CHALKLEY	CPL.C.	17.5.15.	ERECTED.	14.

(6 31 5) W3180—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1024) Forms/W3372/3

ENTERED 22 1/2

SLIPS CHECKED 11.2.21

(7 14 1) W1180-HP3003 50,000 5/49 HWV(P331) Q2109

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).

BURIAL RETURN.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial *Graves (Duty Corner) Cemetery, Birmmghy*

SAINT 444
AT d 5-5

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
I	20	1	<i>SAINT 36</i> <i>527- C 3 6</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>369 E. S. M. B. G. Dalrymple</i> <i>114 Reburied water</i> <i>11/11/15</i>	<i>708</i> <i>17/158E</i>	<i>nil</i>
I	20	2	<i>527- B 6 3</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>Saint E. W. Mansfield</i> <i>819 Spunlin Light</i> <i>11/11/15</i>	<i>708</i> <i>17/158E</i>	<i>nil</i>
I	20	3	<i>527- C 8 2</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>unknown British Soldier</i> <i>Strathcarrick Street</i> <i>11/11/15</i>	<i>708</i> <i>17/158E</i>	<i>nil</i>
I	20	4	<i>527- C 9 2</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>19411 Pte. Parsons</i> <i>12th Royal Scots</i> <i>11/11/15</i>	<i>708</i> <i>17/158E</i>	<i>nil</i>
I	20	5	<i>527- C 9 2</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>15175 Pte. G. R. R. R. R.</i> <i>2nd Wiltshire Regt. 11/11/15</i>	<i>708</i> <i>17/158E</i>	<i>nil</i>
I	20	6	<i>527- A 7 4</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>1946 Pte. R. W. R. R. R.</i> <i>1st Canadian Div. 11/11/15</i>	<i>708</i> <i>17/158E</i>	<i>nil</i>
I	20	7	<i>527- A 7 4</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>1946 Pte. R. W. R. R. R.</i> <i>1st Canadian Div. 11/11/15</i>	<i>708</i> <i>17/158E</i>	<i>nil</i>
I	20	31	<i>527- C 9 2</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>1946 Pte. R. W. R. R. R.</i> <i>1st Canadian Div. 11/11/15</i>	<i>708</i> <i>17/158E</i>	<i>nil</i>

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

ATTACHMENT #10

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author